



ARC-OVER

T.A.R.C



W6BXN

www.w6bxn.org

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May 2024 Club Newsletter

The next general club meeting is Tuesday May 14, 2024, at the Turlock Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA 95380. The meeting's start time is 7:00 PM and doors will open at 6:30 PM.





From the desk of the ARC-Over editor:
Lucian KF6NPG

Welcome to the May edition of the ARC-OVER. Please read through this month's newsletter as there are a lot of things going on.

Thanks to Eric K7RKU for his battery box design and construction presentation. He has sent a QR code so that you can view his presentation on YouTube.



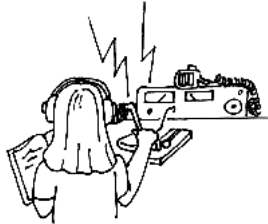
You will find information on the ARRL Field Day (June 22-23, 2024), MFJ shutting down and changes in leadership in the ARRL San Joaquin Valley section. The 2nd annual StanJoaquin Amateur Radio Picnic and Swap meet was held on Saturday April 27, 2024. It was a great success and many hams attended. Thanks to all of the TARC members who made the trip to the event.

Mark N6ARP will give a presentation on go boxes at this month's meeting. If you have a go box, you would like to show after the presentation please bring it with you.

Also, take a look at the upcoming events page for some club activities this summer.

If you have not already done so, please consider renewing your club membership. Dues pay for the club activities and most importantly paying the rent and maintenance of the club repeater system. Thanks to everyone who has renewed, joined, or donated to the club.

Ed K7ERD has been running the club net on Tuesday's and he is always looking for other club members to assist. Thanks to Fernando W6FRD as he has been running some of the nets to help. If you are interested in running a club net, please contact Ed at a club meeting or on the net to let him know.



PREZ SEZ:

Bambi KI6YQL

Hello all! We are in the San Joaquin Valley where spring stays for about 10 minutes and summer descends with a vengeance! This spring has brought rain which begats tall weeds which in turn become tall, dry, and very flammable fire fuel. Fires destroy towers, line, and antennas, so mowing or weed eating around your equipment will keep you on the air which could be at a crucial time. Enjoy what's left of our beautiful spring while it lasts.

See you on May 14th.



Amateur Radio Operators, or “hams,” have a long history of serving their communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, such as cell phone towers and fiber optic networks. Amateur radio functions completely independent of the internet and phone systems, and a ham radio station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Amateurs can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others.

The ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® ARES® (www.arrl.org/ares) consists of hams who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with

their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. They use their training, skills, and equipment to prepare for and provide communications during emergencies When All Else Fails®. (Courtesy of the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League).

If you are interested in emergency communications and serving the community, please consider joining Merced ARES. They have a weekly radio net on Mondays on the TARC repeater at 7:00 pm. **A big thanks to Dinnie N6TLW for running the voice nets.** They meet monthly on the third Wednesday at 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory, 3146 G St. Merced, CA. For more information, please contact the Merced ARES Emergency Coordinator, Richard W6ABJ at info@w6bxn.org.

General Meeting Minutes
Turlock Amateur Radio Club
04/09/2024, 7:00p

Salvation Army Facility, 893 Lander Ave, Turlock

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bambi (KI6YQL) with 23 members and guests in attendance.

Secretary's Report

President Bambi (KI6YQL) entertained a motion that the minutes of the last membership meeting be accepted as published. Motion made by Walter (KI6PBL) and seconded by Ed (K7ERD). Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Mike (KG6VFL),

Debits: \$249.95 for additional distribution to the estate of Siegel, \$85.36 to PG&E for power at Mt. Bullion.

Credits: none

Ending account balances: Checking \$5,958.79, CD \$5,046.21

54 dues paid members.

Repeater Chairman's Report

Spencer (KJ6ART), hoping to make a trip to Mt. Bullion but still expecting further snow, so the trip will be postponed for now.

Membership Chairman's Report

No report

ArcOver Publisher's Report

Lucian (KF6NPG), no report.

Vice President's Report

Lucian (KF6NPG), tonight's presentation - Battery Box, Eric (K7RKU). May meeting presentation - Go Box (if you have one please bring it). Second annual StanJoaquin auction is coming up - details in the Arc Over.

Merced ARES Report

Richard (W6ABJ), plans being made for a restructure of Merced ARES club activities. Current low turn out and a desire to help the club be of best benefit to the community.

VEC Report

No report

Old Business

- Board decision to forego an official Field Day event for this year.

New Business

- Ed (K7ERD) offered a Kenwood transceiver with desk microphone offered for sale to club members
- John (call sign not caught by secretary) mentioned an amplifier offered by another radio operator
- June will be the root beer float meeting
- July will be the potluck meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 7:14 pm. Motion by Ed (K7ERD), second by Jeff (KN6TFK). Motion carried.

Eric (K7RKU), Secretary

Editors note: last names were removed from the minutes.



What is ARRL Field Day?

Produced by ARRL, the national association for amateur radio

<http://www.arrl.org>

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls, and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

What is the ARRL?

The American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA, representing over 170,000 FCC-licensed Amateurs. The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

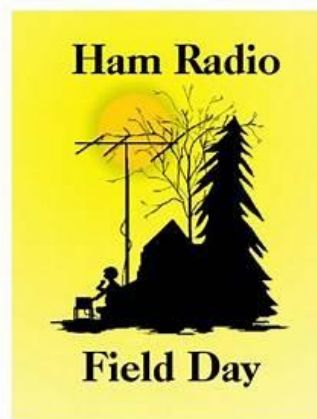
What is Amateur Radio

Often called “ham radio,” the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century. In that time, it’s grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. Its people range in age from youngsters to grandparents. Even rocket scientists and a rock star or two are in the ham ranks. Most, however, are just normal folks like you and me who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data, and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment but can create whole new ways to do things.

For More Information visit: www.arrl.org/field-day

Updated 3/2021



Changes in the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section, courtesy ARRL Letter May 2, 2024.

Steven KK6JTB, has been appointed as Section Manager of the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section.

He fills the vacancy left by John NZ6Q, who was appointed as Vice Director of the ARRL Pacific Division.

Steven has always had a love for radio, and he first earned his amateur radio license a decade ago. "In 2014, I became licensed as a Technician, and in 2015 I became a General," he said. Hams in the area helped him get active in the local radio community. He held several elected leadership positions within the Sierra Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL Special Service Club.



Section Manager of the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section, Steven, KK6JTB.

"With amateur radio, it's easy to operate in many different ways. Currently I'm having fun on HF all while exploring FT8, Winlink, and emergency communications," said Steven.

Steven has previously served as an Assistant Section Manager. His appointment was effective on April 24, and it will run through the remaining term until June 31, 2025.



Courtesy ARRL Letter May2, 2024

MFJ Ceasing On-Site Production

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. founder Martin, K5FLU, announced that as of May 17, 2024, the company will cease on-site production at their Starkville, Mississippi, facility. Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vectronics brand products will be affected by the shutdown.



In a letter posted to social media, Martin said he is looking forward to retiring:

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything [for] businesses, including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had, and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement, but life is so short, and my time with my family is so precious.

Martin founded MFJ Enterprises in 1972, after building a CW filter kit that sold for less than \$10. Since 1990, the company has acquired several other legacy brands within the amateur radio market. Martin shared that the company will remain open to sell existing inventory because they have "a lot of stock on hand." They will also continue to offer repair services for the foreseeable future.

Martin expressed gratitude to the many longtime employees of MFJ, some of whom have been with the company for 40 years.

He also thanked MFJ dealers and radio amateurs for their patronage over the decades.

He also sent a special message to ARRL Members and loyal QST readers:

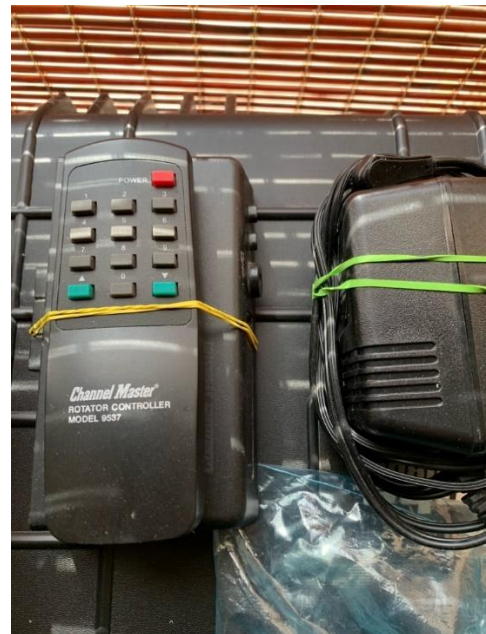
"I give my deepest heartfelt thank you to my fellow hams all over the world, and especially to ARRL members and QST readers. In my youth, I was given a second-hand set of 1958 QSTs. I read them over and over until I practically memorized every word. This gave seed to MFJ.

MFJ became a worldwide ham radio leader only because of you. As I turned 80, I cannot thank you all enough for 52 wonderful ham radio years. Thank you, 73s . . . Martin, k5flu"



Martin, K5FLU, founder of MFJ.

Zack KI6KQ, the SARA club president, has a 10-meter beam with rotator and control for sale. He is asking \$100.00. Zack can be reached at zsp1919@icloud.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

On Going Events

[Electronics Flea Market](#) at West Valley College in Saratoga. Once a month on the second **Sunday**.

The club will sponsor 5 amateur radio license test sessions in 2024.

February 13, 2024, April 9, 2024, June 11, 2024, August 13, 2024, and October 8, 2024.

May

Tuesday 14th Club meeting at 7:00 pm at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA. Presentation on Go Boxes by Mark N6ARP. Bring in your Go Box for show and tell.

Wednesday 15th Merced ARES Meeting 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory 3146 G Street Merced, CA.

June

Tuesday 11th Club meeting at 7:00 pm at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA. We will have Root Beer floats during the break. There will be a license testing session at 6:00 pm before the meeting. There will be a presentation on Field Day by Denni N6TLW.

Wednesday 19th Merced ARES meeting 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory 3146 G Street Merced, CA.

Saturday/Sunday 22nd – 23rd Field Day.

July

Tuesday 9th Club meeting at 7:00 pm at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA. In addition to the club meeting there will be a potluck dinner.

Wednesday 17th Merced ARES meeting 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory 3146 G Street Merced, CA.

August

Tuesday 13th Club meeting at 7:00 pm at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA. There will be a presentation on packet by Spencer KJ6ART.

Wednesday 21st Merced ARES meeting 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory 3146 G Street Merced, CA.



TARC System Nets

- TARC Tuesday Night Net - Tuesdays 7 PM, except for the second Tuesday
- Bacon and Eggs Net - Weekdays 7 AM
- Merced ARES Net - Mondays 7 PM
- San Joaquin Section ARES Net - Sundays 7:30 PM

2024 Dues

Just a reminder, dues are now payable for 2024. Dues help with upkeep on the TARC repeater system and club events. Please include a [membership application](#) to help keep our information up to date. Thanks!

- Individual Membership: \$25
- Family Membership: \$35

Are you receiving TARC emails? If not [head over to W6BXN.org](http://W6BXN.org) and subscribe.

2024 Club Officers

In an effort to further protect TARC members' personal information, we will no longer post the list of members on the club website. For all club inquiries, including membership status, please send an email to info@w6bxn.org.

President Bambi KI6YQL

Vice President/ARC-OVER Editor Lucian KF6NPG

Secretary Eric K7RKU

Treasurer Mike KG6VFL

Sergeant at Arms Jerry KN6GJK

Member at Large/ Membership John N6JCS

Member at Large Lynn KM6DKF

Club Trustee Spencer KJ6ART

We are always looking for articles or items of interest for the ARC-OVER. If you have something for the newsletter, please send to info@w6bxn.org.

